

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-05 ERDA-07 EA-09

ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /058 R

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APPROVED BY EB/OCA/CM/BEBYRON

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COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/JMSANDS

COM/BIC/OIM (INFO COPY)

STATE/EUR/WE/JSWIHART (PHONE)

EA/IP/MMCDONOUGH (PHONE)

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P 192130Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 224217

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IT

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: PROPOSED URANIUM EXTRACTION

--- PLANT, NORTHERN ITALY

1. SUMMARY

COMMERCE MEPD HAS BEEN ADVISED BY FLUOR-UTAH CORPORATION OF ITS ACTIVITIES ON BIDDING THE AGIP URANIUM EXTRACTION PLANT LOCATED NEAR BERGANO IN NORTHERN ITALY. THE BID DATE FOR THIS PROJECT IS OCTOBER 15 AND IT IS REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY PROVIDE ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO FLUOR-UTAH.

2. FLUOR-UTAH IS ONE OF TWO EXPECTED BIDDERS FOR THIS

PROJECT. THE OTHER BIDDER IS PECHINEY OF FRANCE. PECHINEY HAS BEEN VERY AGGRESSIVE IN PURSUING THIS OPPORTUNITY AND IS PROBABLY STRESSING EXISTING ITALIAN-
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FRENCH COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT AS A

CONSIDERATION TO GO WITH FRENCH TECHNOLOGY.

3. AGIP (SUBSIDIARY OF ENI) HAS ASKED FOR BIDS ON THIS PLANT TO PROCESS THE URANIUM ORE FROM THE MINE THROUGH MILLING. FLUOR-UTAH WILL PROPOSE A 327,000 POUND CAPACITY PRODUCTION - PLANT OF U3O8 (YELLOWCAKE), PROCESSING

3,000 TO 4,000 TONS OF URANIUM ORE PER WEEK. FLUOR-UTAH ESTIMATES THE VALUE OF U.S. SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT AT 15 MILLION DOLLARS AND IS IN CONTACT WITH EXIMBANK REGARDING THE POSSIBLE REQUIREMENT FOR THE FINANCING OF THIS PROJECT.

4. AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, FLUOR-UTAH HAS MET WITH

UMBERTO CORDERRO OF AGIP WHEN HE WAS IN THE U.S. EARLIER THIS MONTH. DURING CORDERRO'S STAY, HE VISITED A URANIUM EXTRACTION PLANT IN COLORADO. DR. GIACOMO VALDAZZI OF ENI AND RESIDNET IN DENVER ALSO VISITED THIS PLANT.

5. FLUOR-UTAH WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF THE EMBASSY ON THIS PROJECT AND TO DISCUSS HOW EMBASSY CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE. MR. DAVID GOODMAN OF FLUOR-UTAH LONDON OFFICE CAN BE EXPECTED TO CALL ON THE EMBASSY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE SUGGESTED THAT MR. GOODMAN CONTACT MR. A. L. ZUCCA OF ECON/COM SECTION ON THIS PROJECT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE224217
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BIC/OED/MEPD/DCLU/LW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750326-0352
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750934/aaaabdsx.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAR 2003 by maustmc>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: PROPOSED URANIUM EXTRACTION --- PLANT, NORTHERN ITALY
TAGS: BEXP, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006